

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1       1. A baggage compartment comprising:

2                    a support structure including a side member;

3                    a baggage bin that is selectively raisable and lower-  
4                    able relative to said support structure between an upper  
5                    closed position and a lower open position, and that  
6                    includes a bin floor, an open front, and a bin side wall  
7                    extending upwardly from said bin floor adjacent to said  
8                    side member of said support structure;

9                    a front arcuate guide arrangement movably connecting  
10                  said bin side wall to said side member of said support  
11                  structure to allow arcuate movement therebetween along a  
12                  first arc;

13                  a rear arcuate guide arrangement movably connecting  
14                  said bin side wall to said side member of said support  
15                  structure to allow arcuate movement therebetween along a  
16                  second arc, wherein said front arcuate guide arrangement is  
17                  arranged relatively closer to said open front of said  
18                  baggage bin and said rear arcuate guide arrangement is  
19                  arranged relatively farther from said open front of said  
20                  baggage bin, and wherein said first arc and said second arc  
21                  respectively extend along respective circular arcs about a  
22                  common arc center point; and

23                  a linear guide arrangement movably connecting said bin  
24                  side wall to said side member of said support structure to  
25                  allow linear movement therebetween.

1       2. The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 support structure is a baggage compartment housing that  
3 encloses said baggage bin in said upper closed position,  
4 and said side member of said support structure is a housing  
5 side wall of said housing.

1       3. The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 support structure is an airframe structure of an aircraft  
3 and said side member is a downwardly protruding structural  
4 member of said airframe.

1       4. The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 linear guide arrangement is arranged between said front  
3 arcuate guide arrangement and said rear arcuate guide  
4 arrangement.

1       5. The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 linear guide arrangement extends along a non-vertical slope  
3 with a lower end of said linear guide arrangement tilted  
4 relatively toward said open front of said baggage bin and  
5 an upper end of said linear guide arrangement tilted  
6 relatively away from said open front of said baggage bin.

1       6. The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 first arc of said front arcuate guide arrangement has a  
3 larger radius of curvature and spans a larger arc angle  
4 than said second arc of said rear arcuate guide  
5 arrangement.

1       7. The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2           front and rear arcuate guide arrangements each respectively  
3           comprise an arcuate guide groove provided in a first one of  
4           said side wall of said baggage bin and said side member of  
5           said support structure, and a guide member that is received  
6           to be guidedly movable in said guide groove and that is  
7           connected to a second one other than said first one of said  
8           side wall of said baggage bin and said side member of said  
9           support structure.

1       8. The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein each  
2           said guide member respectively comprises a respective  
3           element selected from the group consisting of guide bolts,  
4           guide rollers, and guide slide blocks.

1       9. The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein each  
2           said arcuate guide groove is an open through-going arcuate  
3           slot penetrating entirely through a thickness of said first  
4           one of said side wall and said side member, said guide  
5           member extends entirely through said slot, and said arcuate  
6           guide arrangements each respectively further comprise a  
7           securing element that respectively secures said guide  
8           member against lateral motion relative to said first one of  
9           said side wall and said side member.

1       10. The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein each  
2           said arcuate guide groove is a closed blind channel that

3       does not penetrate entirely through a thickness of said  
4       first one of said side wall and said side member, and said  
5       guide member extends into said channel.

1       **11.** The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein at  
2       least one of said arcuate guide arrangements further  
3       comprises a stop member that is selectively secured at a  
4       selected location in said arcuate guide groove to limit a  
5       travel of said guide member in said arcuate guide groove.

1       **12.** The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein said  
2       first one of said side wall and said side member is said  
3       side wall of said baggage bin, whereby said arcuate guide  
4       groove is provided in said side wall of said baggage bin,  
5       and wherein said second one of said side wall and said side  
6       member is said side member of said support structure,  
7       whereby said guide member is connected to said side member  
8       of said support structure.

1       **13.** The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein said  
2       linear guide arrangement comprises a guide track connected  
3       to either one of said side wall and said side member, and  
4       a guide roller that is rotatably connected to the other one  
5       of said side wall and said side member and that is  
6       rollingly engaged with said guide track so as to roll  
7       therealong.

1       **14.** The baggage compartment according to claim 7, wherein said  
2 front and rear arcuate guide arrangements are arranged,  
3 configured and adapted as follows: said guide members are  
4 positioned at a lowermost end position respectively in said  
5 arcuate guide grooves when said baggage bin is in said  
6 upper closed position, said arcuate guide grooves move  
7 relatively along said guide members and then said guide  
8 member of said rear arcuate guide arrangement reaches an  
9 uppermost end position in said arcuate guide groove of said  
10 rear arcuate guide arrangement before said guide member of  
11 said front arcuate guide arrangement reaches an uppermost  
12 end position in said arcuate guide groove of said front  
13 arcuate guide arrangement as said baggage bin is moved  
14 downwardly from said upper closed position toward said  
15 lower open position, and after said guide member of said  
16 rear arcuate guide arrangement reaches said uppermost end  
17 position then said baggage bin tilts downwardly into said  
18 lower open position about said guide member of said rear  
19 arcuate guide arrangement as said arcuate guide groove of  
20 said front arcuate guide arrangement moves farther along  
21 said guide member of said front arcuate guide arrangement  
22 until said guide member of said front arcuate guide  
23 arrangement reaches said uppermost end position in said  
24 arcuate guide groove of said front arcuate guide  
25 arrangement when said baggage bin reaches said lower open  
26 position.

1       **15.** The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2                  linear guide arrangement comprises a guide track connected  
3                  to either one of said side wall and said side member, and  
4                  a guide roller that is rotatably connected to the other one  
5                  of said side wall and said side member and that is  
6                  rollingly engaged with said guide track so as to roll  
7                  therealong.

1       **16.** The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2                  linear guide arrangement comprises a linear guide groove  
3                  provided in either one of said side wall and said side  
4                  member, and a slide block that is connected to the other  
5                  one of said side wall and said side member and that is  
6                  slidably engaged in said linear guide groove.

1       **17.** The baggage compartment according to claim 1, wherein said  
2                  linear guide arrangement comprises a linear track or a  
3                  linear groove, a guide roller or a slide block arranged to  
4                  move guidedly along said linear track or said linear  
5                  groove, and a stop member selectively secured at a selected  
6                  location on said linear track or said linear groove so as  
7                  to limit a motion of said guide roller or said slide block  
8                  therealong.

1       **18.** The baggage compartment according to claim 1, further  
2                  comprising at least one of a spring device and a damper  
3                  device connected to said support structure and said baggage  
4                  bin.

1       **19.** The baggage compartment according to claim 1, further  
2           comprising a gas pressure spring and damper device with one  
3           end pivotably connected to said side wall of said baggage  
4           bin and another end pivotably connected to a component of  
5           said front arcuate guide arrangement.

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